

## Message Text

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61

ORIGIN EA-14

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DRAFTED BY EA/VN:RHWENZEL:AOA

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R 301659Z MAY 74

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY SAIGON

UNCLAS STATE 113213

E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS: PFOR, VS

SUBJECT:SENATOR KENNEDY'S PRESS RELEASE

FOR AMBASSADOR

REF: SAIGON 6961

THERE FOLLOWS TEXT OF MAY 27 PRESS RELEASE BY SENATOR  
KENNEDY:

BEGIN TEXT. SENATOR EDWARD M. KENNEDY, CHAIRMAN OF THE  
SUBCOMMITTEE ON REFUGEES, SAID TODAY THAT "THE ADMINISTRATION  
HAS ALLOWED OUR INDOCHINA DIPLOMACY TO BECOME BOGGED  
DOWN IN A CYCLE OF RECRIMINATION AND VIOLENCE -- WHICH  
PREVENTS NEW INITIATIVES NEEDED TO STRENGTHEN THE CEASEFIRE  
AGREEMENT AND UNDERMINES MEANINGFUL PROGRESS TOWARDS A  
POLITICAL SETTLEMENT."

SENATOR KENNEDY SAID: "THE POLICY OF NEGOTIATION, ACCOMMODATION  
AND DETENTE -- SO NOTABLE AND PRAISEWORTHY IN OUR  
APPROACH TO OTHER AREAS OF THE WORLD -- IS ABSENT TODAY IN  
VIETNAM. THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE APPARENTLY IS CONTENT  
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WITH THE EXCUSE THAT 'JUST AS IT TAKES TWO TO WAGE WAR, IT

TAKES TWO PARTIES TO MAKE PEACE.' WITH THAT SIMPLISTIC NOTION AS OUR GUIDE, NO PROGRESS TOWARD A RESOLUTION OF CONFLICT IN THE MIDDLE EAST WOULD BE EVIDENT TODAY, AND NO

FURTHER PROGRESS TOWARDS PEACE CAN BE MADE IN INDOCHINA."

SENATOR KENNEDY MADE HIS STATEMENT IN RELEASING THE TEXT OF A 26-PAGE DEPARTMENT OF STATE RESPONSE TO A SERIES OF 12 RECOMMENDATIONS CONTAINED IN A SUBCOMMITTEE STUDY MISSION REPORT, ENTITLED "RELIEF AND REHABILITATION OF WAR VICTIMS IN INDOCHINA: ONE YEAR AFTER THE CEASEFIRE." THE RESPONSE REPRESENTS THE SECOND PART OF SECRETARY KISSINGER'S MARCH 25 LETTER TO SENATOR KENNEDY ON U.S. POLICY TOWARDS INDOCHINA.

AMONG OTHER THINGS, THE DEPARTMENT'S RESPONSE TO A RECOMMENDATION ON POLITICAL PRISONERS SAID THAT "THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE CANNOT AGREE WITH THE STUDY MISSION'S ASSERTION THAT 'THE RECORD IS CLEAR THAT POLITICAL PRISONERS EXIST IN SOUTH VIETNAM.'"

SENATOR KENNEDY SAID: "ONCE AGAIN THE ADMINISTRATION HAS 'SOLVED' A PROBLEM BY DENYING THAT IT EXISTS. THE DEPARTMENT'S ASSERTION THAT THERE ARE NO POLITICAL PRISONERS IN SOUTH VIETNAM DEFIES NOT ONLY THE FINDINGS OF THE STUDY MISSION IN THE FIELD, BUT ALSO THOSE OF RESPONSIBLE INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN ORGANIZATIONS. IT ALSO CONTRADICTS THE DEPARTMENT'S PREVIOUS COMMUNICATIONS TO THE SUBCOMMITTEE."

REGARDING THE DEPARTMENT'S RESPONSE TO A RECOMMENDATION THAT A SPECIAL STUDY BE MADE ON U.S. BOMBING AND MILITARY PRACTICES IN INDOCHINA, SENATOR KENNEDY SAID: "I AM PLEASED THAT THE DEPARTMENT AGREES 'IN PRINCIPLE' WITH THIS RECOMMENDATION, AND THAT STUDIES ON SOME ASPECTS OF OUR MILITARY ACTIVITIES HAVE ALREADY BEEN CONDUCTED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE. SURELY ONE OF THE MOST IMPORTANT AND PAINFUL LESSONS WE MUST LEARN FROM OUR INDOCHINA EXPERIENCE RELATES TO OUR MILITARY PRACTICES, ESPECIALLY THE DEVASTATING IMPACT OF BOMBING. I WOULD HOPE THAT THE DE-

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PARTMENT COULD RELEASE THE STUDIES ALREADY MADE, AND THAT THE ADMINISTRATION WILL PURSUE ADDITIONAL STUDIES ALONG THE LINES RECOMMENDED IN THE SUBCOMMITTEE REPORT."

SENATOR KENNEDY ALSO PRAISED THE DEPARTMENT'S COMMENTS ON NEW HUMANITARIAN PROGRAMS TO ASSIST ORPHANS AND OTHER WAR VICTIMS, BUT EXPRESSED "DISAPPOINTMENT" OVER THE GENERAL TONE AND SUBSTANCE OF THE DEPARTMENT'S COMMENTS ON THE SUB-

COMMITTEE'S RECOMMENDATIONS.

ATTACHED IS THE COMPLETE TEXT OF THE SUBCOMMITTEE STUDY

MISSION'S RECOMMENDATIONS AND THE DEPARTMENT'S RESPONSE.  
FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION, PLEASE CALL 225-4118. END TEXT.  
BROWN

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## Message Attributes

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